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THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.,

Wednesday, December 27, 1893.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Association was called to order at 10 o'clock a. m. by the President, Professor Francis A. March.

President James C. Welling, of the Columbian University, welcomed the Association in the following words :

Year after year it has been our pleasure to meet the members of this Association devoted to the study of the modern languages. I have enjoyed the privilege of listening to your discussions, and I should be glad to renew to-day that pleasure, but unfortunately I have conflicting engagements which will call me away from any share whatever in your deliberations. In the name of my colleagues in this University, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Overseers, I extend to you individually and collectively a most cordial welcome to all the hospitalities which we have to offer you. I have only to regret that our hospitalities are not more sumptuous, more in keeping with the dignity of the Association which honors us by coming into our halls.

The Secretary presented, with comments, the published *Proceedings* of the previous regular meeting of the Association, and of the extra session held at Chicago, July 13, 1893, under the auspices of the World's Congress Auxiliary of the World's Columbian Exposition. The report of the Secretary was adopted.

The Acting Treasurer of the Association, Dr. M. D. Learned, presented the following report :

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand December 23, 1892,	. . . . .	\$47 35
Annual Dues from Members—		
Arrears for the year 1892,	. .	\$117 00
Dues “ “ “ 1893,	. .	987 30
Dues in advance for 1894,	. .	6 00
For <i>Publications</i> sold,	. . . . .	195 50
For partial cost of publication of articles and for reprints of the same,	. . . . .
Prof. G. M. Harper, (viii, 1),	. .	80 00
Dr. L. E. Menger, (viii, 2),	. .	86 00
Dr. C. A. Smith, (viii, 2),	. .	51 25
Dr. C. H. Ross, (viii, 3),	. . .	90 00
Prof. Sylvester Primer, (viii, 3),		8 00
Prof. K. Dodge, (viii, 4),	. . .	3 88
Prof. H. E. Greene, (viii, 4),	. .	12 20
Total receipts for the year,	. . . . .	\$1,637 13
		<u>\$1,684 48</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Publication of Vol. VII, No. 4,	. . .	\$ 138 09
Publication of Vol. VIII, and Reprints,	. .	1,182 97
Job Printing,	. . . . .	6 00
Expenditures of Secretary,	. . .	51 91
“ “ Treasurer,	. . .	19 44
Stenographer,	. . . . .	50 00
Janitor's Service,	. . . . .	9 00
Total expenditures for the year,	. . . . .	\$1,457 41
Balance on hand December 23, 1893,	. . . . .	227 07
		<u>\$1,684 48</u>

December 23, 1893. Balance on hand—\$227 07.

The President then appointed the following Committees :

- (1) To audit the Treasurer's report : Professor J. H. Gore and Mr. A. N. Brown.

- (2) To nominate officers: Professors S. Garner, C. H. Grandgent, A. N. van Daell, E. H. Magill, T. W. Hunt, W. M. Baskervill, Adolphe Cohn, C. W. Kent, C. C. Freeman.
- (3) To recommend place for the next Annual Meeting: Professors A. M. Elliott, Charles Harris, H. E. Greene, E. C. Fay, J. L. Hall.

The reading of papers was then begun.

1. "The Life and Works of Giacomo Leopardi." By Dr. Alex. W. Herdler, of Princeton University.

Giacomo was born the 29th of June, 1798. His father brought him up according to his own theory, without teachers, and seeing his unusual faculties, left him early alone in his large library (at Recanati), which was soon all of life to the boy. Without outside help he learned Greek, Hebrew and the principal modern languages, but his greatest care he bestowed upon the classics. In 1818 he published two Greek poems in the spirit of Anacreon which he gave out for original ones, and so nearly did he approach the language and spirit of his model that everybody was deceived. His letters, dating from 1818-1822, breathe forth the deepest melancholy which was still further aggravated by the opposition of his father to all his plans. To leave Recanati and separate himself from his family seemed to him the only way of salvation. His fiery spirit revolted against an exercise of parental care and authority that seemed to him so unreasonable. Finally in 1822 he left for Rome. His renewed efforts to obtain suitable employment proved fruitless, and so sank more and more deeply into his soul the conviction that he was a child of misfortune. Excessive study had induced a serious trouble with his eyes, which lasted all his life. Constantly struggling with illness and misery he found at last a faithful friend in Antonio Ranieri. Through his tender nursing the poet's undermined organism recovered for a time and rendered his last days at least peaceful. On the 14th of June, 1837, he died at Naples.

He was perhaps unduly aggressive in his attitude toward society and the world at large, too much withdrawn into himself, but he was of transcendent nobility of character and thoroughly imbued with the classic spirit. A man of such lofty aspirations endowed with such an iron perseverance, chained to such a wretched body and to such narrow circumstances, can one imagine a more tragic fate? His works, both prose and poetry, are distinguished by two characteristic features: his complete devotion to the classics and his pessimistic view of life. The former manifests itself in the form of his works, the latter in their substance. In every passage speaks to us the modern man wrapped in Grecian garb. The principal source of his Hellenism is to be sought in his uninterrupted philological